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Executive Privilege

3844

May 24, 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable
 Allen W. Dulles,
 Director,
 Central Intelligence Agency.

SUBJECT: Radio Free Europe (RFE).

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum of May 21, 1957.

I have read with considerable interest the report made to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe by the Special Committee on Non-Representative Nations. As you know, the Department has indicated in several memoranda and in personal conversations with representatives of the Agency its belief that some degree of "Europeanization" of RFE broadcasting is advantageous, and we supported, and continue to support, close association between RFE and the Council of Europe, as well as with other representative European organizations. Naturally I share your belief that the type of cooperation envisaged should not entail any surrender by the Agency of actual operation control of RFE, nor, for that matter, any surrender by the Department of its responsibilities for the provision of foreign policy guidance for RFE. Subject to these considerations, I would personally hope that responsible personnel of RFE be encouraged to make the fullest use of the assistance of the Council of Europe in its future programming.

As you perhaps know, the Council of Europe's report under reference was tabled at the recently-concluded meeting of the Eastern European Chiefs of Mission meeting at Vienna. The Chiefs of Mission showed themselves favorably impressed with the concept of "Europeanization" of RFE, and, in that regard, endorsed the general concepts contained in a draft policy guidance on broadcasting to Bulgaria which had been developed in consultation between the Department and CIA, and which, I trust, may serve as a model for further guidances applicable to Radio Liberation as well as RFE.

I would be delighted to discuss this general subject further with you, and suggest you call me at your convenience.

Robert C. Murphy
 Deputy Under Secretary

STATE review(s) completed.

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21 MAY 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Robert G. Murphy
Deputy Under Secretary of State
Department of State

SUBJECT: Radio Free Europe (RFE)

1. I attach the report made to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe on May 2, by the Special Committee on Non-Represented Nations. This Special Committee conducted a thorough investigation of the various criticisms and allegations made against Radio Free Europe before and since the Hungarian revolt, and spent three days in Munich with the RFE staff during the course of this investigation. The members of the Committee were unanimous in their findings. Their names are:

Vistrand (Sweden), Chairman
Pezet (France) and Goedhart (Netherlands), Vice Chairmen
Altmaier and Reif (Germany)
Countess Finckenstein and Paul (Germany), alternates
Godfrey-Nicholson and Daines (Great Britain)
Kranzmayer (Austria)
de la Valle Paussin (Belgium)
Bogholm (Denmark)
Crosbie (Ireland)
Montini (Italy)
Bosbag (Turkey)

The report is, I think particularly interesting because it is the work of an entirely objective and representative body of knowledgeable Europeans. I would be very much interested in having your reaction

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to it. I could wish that some of the comments that appeared in our own press had been preceded by as thorough and careful an analysis as this group has made.

2. I also attach a speech to the Consultative Assembly made by the principal draftsman of the report, Mr. F. J. Goedhart of the Netherlands. While he rules out, correctly I think, participation in the management of RFE by the West German Government or the Council of Europe, he does make certain thought provoking suggestions regarding possible European participation in the work of RFE. As time passes, it may well be to our advantage to work out some arrangement with the Europeans for a sharing of the political and financial responsibility. At your convenience, I would like to have a chance to discuss this report with you.

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WILLIAM W. DULLES
Director

Attachments:

- 1 - Report to Consultative Assembly,
dated May 3, 1957
- 2 - Speech by Mr. F. J. Goedhart,
dated May 6, 1957

Drafted by C/IO/Meyer;mvs (13 May 57)

Rewritten: AWD c

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